

## THEY ARE OPPOSED TO ITS PASSAGE

HOTEL MEN TO TAKE ACTION REGARDING THE GALLAGHER BILL FOR A CHANGE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ELEVATORS AND ELEVATOR SHAFTS.

It is likely that Mr. Gallagher, who introduced a bill in the Assembly on February 21 to provide for a change in the construction of elevators and elevator shafts, will hear something shortly from those who would be affected by such bill. Its position has been greatly misinterpreted. His message is not one of division, but of union; not one of destruction, but of construction. He will tell us what is, but would prefer it in a statement and a pamphlet more intense and unmitting righteousness."

"This proposed law is not consistent. Suppose we admit for the sake of argument that it is necessary to have a tightly closed elevator shaft, built out of fireproof material, iron doors, and a metal carriage. All that is bad enough, but then the bill additionally provides that a staircase of iron, brick or stone shall be built around the shaft. In all good hotels, as a rule, the stairways above the first landing are carpeted. The necessity of this is apparent. Suppose in the night a thief guest wishes to pass from one floor to another. She probably has on a light dressing-gown and slippers. In passing over a carpeted floor she is comparatively comfortable, but should she have to pass down a flight of cold stone steps in light slippers she would be likely to catch cold, and serious results follow. That is only a slight argument, but it is reasonable. A hotel man likes to see his house upstairs nicely carpeted and comfortable. Stone stairs would give a bare and cheerless effect.

The provisions of the bill are more manifest when the office buildings and hotels of the city are individually noted. Even such perfect specimens of modern architecture as the Post Building, Broadway, and Murray-st., and the Mutual Reserve Building at Broadway and Duane-st., are not perfect in accordance with the new provisions of the bill. They have the usual elevator shafts, stone and stone stairways, but the shafts are open more than is necessary for only light and air. Therefore, it can be seen why buildings that were erected a few years ago are, while being made of fireproof structures nevertheless badly at fault in Mr. Gallagher's estimation. Such a building as the Stewart Building, for example, has wooden elevators, and does not even have the rigid fireproof precautions have been taken, the elevator and elevator shaft would condemn it should this become law.

Another point which requires alterations would be in the Fifth Avenue Hotel. This building has a wooden elevator car and wooden doors. A marble flight of steps extends part of the way up, but carpeted flights like them are also in use. The same conditions will be found in nearly all the hotels. Hotel men have begun to realize the trouble that is in store for them if the bill becomes a law and are preparing to oppose its passage.

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